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REPORT OF THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES, QUESTIONS RELATING TO REFUGEES, RETURNEES AND DISPLACED PERSONS AND HUMANITARIAN QUESTIONS

HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS

Letter dated 17 June 1992 from the Permanent Representative of Portugal to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the text, in English and French, of a statement of the European Community and its member States on Burma, issued in Lisbon and Brussels on 16 June 1992 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the text of the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the forty-seventh session of the General Assembly under items 97 and 98 of the preliminary list.

(Signed) Fernando REINO
Permanent Representative

* A/47/50.

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Annex

STATEMENT ISSUED AT BRUSSELS AND LISBON ON 16 JUNE 1992
BY THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY

The European Community and its member States note the measures adopted by the State Law and Order Restoration Council after the replacement of General Saw Maung by General Than Shwe on 23 April 1992, in particular the announcement of the suspension of the offensive against the Karens, the release of some political prisoners, including some senior National League for Democracy personalities and the permission for Aung San Suu Kyi's husband and children to visit her.

The European Community and its member States welcome the proposal for a preparatory meeting with political parties on 23 June 1992 to consider arrangements for a National Convention. They hope that this meeting will set out an agreed and firm timetable for the process of an early transition to democracy, with full safeguards and respect for human rights.

The European Community and its member States believe that the release of the remaining political prisoners, including the lifting of the house arrest for Aung San Suu Kyi and freedom for her to leave and return to Burma and have regular contact with her family, the lifting of martial law and action to safeguard the rights of minorities in Burma are essential elements in this process. The European Community and its member States note with concern that the agreed arrangements for the return of Rohingya refugees from Bangladesh are not being implemented as planned, and urge the Burmese authorities to cooperate fully with Bangladesh and the United Nations to ensure the safe and orderly return of refugees, allowing a presence of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees on the Burmese side of the border.

The European Community and its member States stress their willingness to re-establish constructive relations with Rangoon as soon as Burma becomes a democratic State and respects human rights, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and universally accepted standards.